

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/820,711

Examiner

Daniel A. Hess

Applicant(s)

FUJIOKA, TOSHINORI

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/9/04 filing.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/04 and 10/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION / ALLOWANCE

This action is in response to 4/9/2004 filing by the applicant.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35

U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been received of JAPAN 2003-106376 04/10/2003.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Melvin Kraus on 6/22/2005. These corrections simply correct errors that were introduced in translation from Japanese.

IN THE CLAIMS

In claim 1, line 20, the word "staking" is replaced with the word "accommodating".

In claim 1, line 17, the phrase "a accommodating" is replaced with "an accommodating".

In claim 16, line 10, the word "staking" is replaced with the word "accommodating".

In claim 16, line 6, the phrase "a accommodating" is replaced with "an accommodating".

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-18 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

One of the limitations that appears to be particularly lacking in the prior art is listed below. This limitation is taken from claim 1, but similar language appears in each independent claim.

at least one of the plural bill accommodating boxes has an accommodating section that is divided into a front-side accommodating section and a rear-side accommodating section and a push plate that is independently operated to a front side and a rear side, whereby the front-side staking section and rear-side accommodating section can store bills of different denominations.

Note that this limitation is considered in light of the whole invention; that is to say, the above limitation without the various other limitations recited would not necessarily be allowable.

Firstly, three pieces of prior art that have been raised in the European search report are discussed, as well as their shortcomings. These documents were considered carefully by the examiner, but do not teach or fairly suggest the above limitation.

Firstly, Matsuura (US 6,481,620) and Matsuura (EP 1 008 965) are discussed; they belong to the same family and were cited in the European search report for the same reasons. In

Art Unit: 2876

each of these, a compartment such as 850 has only a single divider and thus cannot be independently operated on a front side and a rear side.

Compare with figure 4 of the instant invention; here there are two plates present and thus makes it possible to bias independently in two different directions. With a single plate, there cannot be independent biasing in two directions.

Shibata (US 2002/0121422) exhibits a similar problem: A single plate 14 (see figure 1) is capable of biasing in a forward or a backward direction but not both independently.

Another similar and relevant piece of prior art is Katou et al. (US 6,481,620). Katou et al., assigned to the instant assignee, teaches (see figure 3) a stacked arrangement of bill accommodating boxes including at least one bin (see uppermost bin of figure 3) that has two separate accommodating areas 601 and 601, such that one of them is operated from a front side and the other is operated from a rear side. Lacking is a push plate independently operating on the front and rear portions. Instead, a simple divider is present. That divider could be adjusted manually, but it does not push, and there is no independent operation in two directions. In fact, it does not even push in one direction.

Compare with the more sophisticated arrangement of the instant invention as shown in figure 4: Clearly one can see the claimed push plate arrangement 806 that operates independently in two different directions (i.e. front and rear sides).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2876

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kato et al. (US 6,170,822) has a plurality of stacked bins, but they are apparently only operated on one side. Nao et al. (US 4625870) teaches a plurality of boxes that are neither divided nor stacked.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel A. Hess whose telephone number is (571) 272-2392. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DH

6/22/05


DIANE I. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER